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Johnny Winter '80s/70's

Johnny Winter

Live Through The Eighties

Johnny Winter

Live Through The Seventies

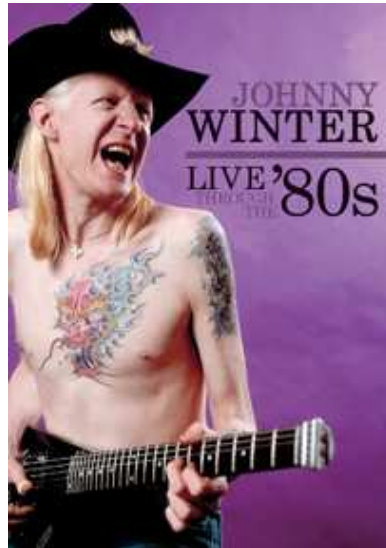
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One of the most exciting parts of my job is when I receive a CD or DVD in the mail that I really and truly love. Such was the case with the new release *Johnny Winter Live During the 1980s*. I was equally thrilled that Clint and the folks at MVD also sent along *Johnny Winter Live Through The Seventies*, released last year.

The *Eighties* DVD includes a collection of official archival performance footage from around the world compiled from the original masters, featuring 18 performances from locations like Toronto's Massey Hall (Toronto '83), Roskilde DRTV (Roskilde, Denmark '84), New Hampshire

('84), Sonet Studio (Bromma, Sweden '87), Piazza Duomo (Pistoia, Italy '88), and a whole lot more.

The DVD kicks off in high gear with four performances from Johnny's 1983 appearance at Canada's Massey Hall, backed by Jon Paris and Bobby T. Torello. The fire blazes hot on the opening tune, a rocking cover of Sonny Boy Williamson blues classic, "Unseen Eye."

Next up is Johnny's original mid-tempo ballad, "Stranger," one of my favorites from days gone by.

The Massey Hall segment rounds out with Johnny's own Delta blues number, "Sweet Papa John," followed by the rock 'n' roll classic, "I Used to Love Her." Next are two tracks from Johnny's 1984 performance at the Capital Theater in Passaic, NJ, featuring Mad Dog," from his Alligator release *Guitar Slinger*, and the slow blues of "Good Times Woman."

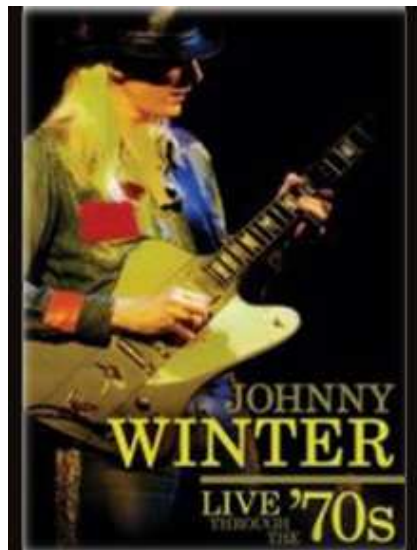




Later in 1984, Johnny performed in front of 100,000 people at the Roskilde Festival in Denmark, with Paris on bass and drummer Tom Compton. Four tracks from this amazing show are included - "Jumpin' Jack Flash," "Boot Hill," "Highway 61 Revisited" and a Winter staple, Chuck Berry's "Johnny B. Goode."

"Lights Out [Guitar Slinger] rocks full tilt boogie, and Johnny's old favorite, "Please Come Home for Christmas," filmed in 1984 in New Hampshire, are here as well as two music videos shot for Alligator Records: the Guitar Slinger version of "Don't Take Advantage of Me"- shown on MTV at the time- and a candid interview with Johnny, during which he plays some solo electric guitar.

There are a pair of tunes from a Swedish television appearance in 1987 - "Sound the Bell" and the rocking shuffle "Mojo Boogie." The final segment features two smoking performances from the 1988 Pistoia Blues Festival in Italy - "Early in the Morning," and a wide open. "Serious as a Heart Attack."



Also available from MVD is *Johnny Winter Live During The Seventies*, which makes the perfect bookend for the Eighties disc. It's an incredible collection of official archival footage from the '70s including performances from Danish TV "Gladsaxe Teen Club" (Denmark 1970), the Royal Albert Hall in London (1970), the Beat Club in Bremen, Germany (1970), Don Kirshner's Rock Concert - Palace Theater in Waterbury, CT (1973), Soundstage - Blues Summit in Chicago, IL (1974), Musikladen in Bremen, Germany (1974), and Rockpalast in Germany (1979). Intermixed with the live content is interview footage at Detroit Tubeworks in Detroit, MI (1970). It's the

definitive document of Johnny's career in the '70s.

The opening number blew my mind. Winter's 1970 interpretation of his brother Edgar's "Frankenstein," then known as "The Double Drum Song," complete with a shorter haired Edgar on keys, sax and drums. A true collectors item. The presence of Tommy Shannon, later of "Double Trouble" with SRV on this tune and in several other parts of the DVD is also very special.

Johnny's version of BB King's "Be Careful Of The Fool" is a highlight for sure, as is "Johnny B. Goode," and "Talk To Your Daughter." "Tell The Truth" showcases the abundant talent of Johnny's brother Edgar on keys and sax.

"Key To The Highway" is Johnny at his best--just him and a bass player. And then there's "Walking Through The Park" from the famous Muddy Water's tribute show featuring Johnny playing with Muddy, Junior Wells and Mike Bloomfield. Amazing footage.

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Universal Music Tribe - Johnny Winter '...

Between the *Eighties* and the *Seventies* DVDs, there are enough classic and powerful Johnny Winter performances to make old school fans like myself stand up and cheer. Two amazing, essential discs.

-Michael Buffalo Smith

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